

tered letter. Everybody knows I should think by this time what a registered letter looks like, with a blue mark, with the blue "R" in the corner, and the marks signifying it was registered. This was plainly an ordinary envelope sent by hand. Sir James Crichton-Browne was informed that it had not been sent by registered letter. He then says that that being so he considers that though it was a motion which it would be advantageous to discuss he is bound by the bye-law to rule it out of order. Then Dr. Bedford Fenwick gets up, and in the first part of his address he substantially agrees with Sir James Crichton-Browne, namely, that the resolution ought to be discussed. Then he says: "When the question of the registration of the letter was brought before the Executive Committee"—of which Dr. Bedford Fenwick was a member—"they felt that it was right that their conduct should be challenged. You have ruled that the meeting cannot discuss the motion." And then he asked Miss Breay, "Was not the letter registered?" Miss Breay said she held the certificate of registration in her hand. Dr. Bedford Fenwick then said: "This is only another instance of the way in which the proceedings of the Association are conducted." And the Chairman said: "Please hand in the receipt you hold," and then Miss Breay handed the receipt to the Chairman, and then Dr. Bedford Fenwick said: "The Chairman has ruled we cannot discuss the resolution. I think, therefore, we had better bow to his ruling." Then one or two members took the opinion of the Chairman as to whether the bye-laws could not be suspended, Dr. George Brown, for instance, did, and the Chairman ruled that they could not. What finally took place was the Chairman said: "There has been no attempt" &c., &c. Then nobody could have supposed—least of all anybody who has to do with public meetings—that any more would be heard of that matter. The Chairman has a point submitted to him. He has the address on the part of the person who takes the point of order; he has the address, on the other side, of a supporter of the resolution, Dr. Bedford Fenwick. He rules it out of order, and Dr. Bedford Fenwick says "I think we had better bow to his ruling." Miss Breay says no more. After that the matter is put into the solicitor's hands, who commences that wearisome set of assertions of regret at bringing this action with which we have been so inundated. He regrets so very much to bring the action, but what course do they take. The moment the Solicitor has written saying that litigation is to ensue, the solicitor, acting for Sir James Crichton-Browne, writes and explains what the mistake was, that it was a mistake of the Post Office, that the Post Office had not put the usual marks of a registered letter, and that that was how it arose, and he suggested at once the remedy, that an arrangement should be made to have a Special Meeting. He writes and says: "The certificate of registration to which you refer is, we believe, merely a certificate of express delivery. If, as your client alleges, the letter was sent by registered post, the fault lies with the Post Office officials, who omitted to register it, and for their default our client cannot, of course, be held responsible." Then he says: "The Executive Committee were, and are, desirous that Miss Breay's motion should be brought on and dealt with, as they are fully prepared to meet the charges she has made against them, and if Miss Breay wishes, we have no doubt we can arrange for a Special General Meeting to be called, when

her motion can be considered." The Charter provides, that General Meetings can be called either at the instance of the President or at the instance of the Executive Committee, or at the instance of fifty members. Here is the Solicitor of Sir James Crichton-Browne, who at once says: "If you wish to air this grievance we have no doubt a Special General Meeting can be arranged." It could easily have been arranged. The President could have summoned it, the Executive Committee could have summoned it. I have no doubt that would have suited Miss Breay personally perfectly well. It did not suit those who are, like Dr. Bedford Fenwick, the main-spring of Miss Breay's action, those who wish apparently to make the government and management of this institution impossible. They said: "Oh, no, the meeting will not do at all, a right has been infringed; we must go on with our action; litigation at all costs." And that is why you are summoned here to-day, and have been kept all day here to-day, trying—what? Trying absolutely nothing. Miss Breay is not injured in the slightest degree, unless you can say that because she had not the opportunity then of delivering her speech she has been injured. As his Honour put it from the Bench, all she has been deprived of is the opportunity of airing her grievances, and she has not really been deprived of that, because the terms of her resolution of censure had been on the agenda paper, published in three of the medical papers for nearly three weeks, and she had had all that advantage. Now, gentlemen, I ask you to reject the suggestion that Sir James Crichton-Browne acted partially in this matter. I ask you to reject it, in the first place, because he has said so. He has come before you on his oath, and he has told you a story which refutes, in every particular—not the *evidence* or *statement* made by Dr. Bedford Fenwick and Dr. George Brown, but their conjecture and their tittle-tattle, for it is tittle-tattle and nothing else that they come with. They come and say: "I was there—I thought—I imagined—I think—it must have been a farce." That is what they say, and that is what my learned friend calls evidence to give before a sensible British jury of the City of London. But, gentlemen, in the face of that, Sir James Crichton-Browne comes and tells you, "Nothing of the kind." Now what was the fact? Dr. George Brown and Dr. Bedford Fenwick did not commit themselves to very much. They prefaced all their remarks by saying how much they regretted it, it was very painful to say it, and so forth. What was it they suggested, if they suggested anything? They suggested a sort of conspiracy, a sort of meeting in a private room, and an arrangement that Dr. Fardon was to say this, and somebody else was to say that, and Sir James Crichton-Browne was to give this ruling. Now, excepting Dr. Fardon, who is away, you have heard everybody who had anything to do with what took place before the meeting. There were only a very few minutes. The Assistant Secretary said to Sir James Crichton-Browne that there was this point as to the resolution, Mr. Langton mentioned it too, and Sir James Crichton-Browne tells you he had never heard of the resolution until he came into St. Bartholemew's Hall, and he repels, and everybody who had anything to do with the matter repels, the suggestion that there was any such pre-arrangement. Now, gentlemen, I ask you to say by your verdict, if the matter is left to you, that Sir James Crichton-Browne acted with perfect impartiality, and that there

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